

**General Assembly**

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Seventy-third session**Third Committee**

Agenda item 74

Promotion and protection of human rights**Antigua and Barbuda: draft resolution****World Braille Day**

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally, as well as of improving the efficiency, performance and transparency of the Organization,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,² in which it is reflected, in articles 2, 9, 21 and 24, that braille is a means of communication and social inclusion for blind persons,

Recognizing that braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols,

Recognizing also that braille is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font,

¹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.



Affirming that the use of braille by individuals who are blind or partially sighted ensures the communication of important information to them and others and represents competency, independence and equality,

Affirming also that, because the importance of well-developed literacy skills on the part of all individuals is reflected in the value placed on reading and writing in schools and throughout society, instruction in literacy skills can justifiably be considered the cornerstone of education and an important tool in the fight against poverty,

Affirming further that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights relevant to matters of written language and fundamental freedoms in the context of written language are critical prerequisites to the full realization of human rights for blind and partially sighted people,

1. *Decides to proclaim* 4 January World Braille Day, to be observed each year beginning in 2019, in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a written language in the full realization of the human rights of blind and partially sighted people;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Braille Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of braille as a written language;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures throughout society to raise awareness of braille as a written language;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.